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and a brief description of methods of chemical examinations of minerals.

The descriptive mineralogy is an abridgment of the sixth edition of Professor Dana's System of Mineralogy and possesses most of the advantageous features of the larger work. However, much of the material of the latter work is necessarily excluded from a text-book.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the new edition of this Text Book of Mineralogy is the condensation of the material, a great amount of information being compassed by so few pages. Its adaptability for class instruction, however, has yet to be tested, and it is hoped that it will prove satisfactory. Its need has been long felt and Professor Dana is to be thanked for its preparation. It is regrettable that the figures used for illustration vary so greatly in merit. While most of them are excellent, some are quite defective or are poorly printed so that the lettering is obscure or the edges of crystals confused.

J. P. I.

Manual of Determinative Mineralogy with an introduction on Blowpipe Analysis, by GEORGE J. BRUSH. Revised and enlarged, with entirely new tables for the identification of minerals, by Samuel L. Penfield. Fifteenth edition. John Wiley & Sons, New York. Chapman & Hall, London, 1898.

In 1896 a revision of the introductory chapters of this book, relating to blowpipe analysis and the chemical reactions of the elements, was published, and was reviewed in this JOURNAL, Vol. V, p. 86. The character of the work published at that time was of so high an order as to raise expectations regarding the promised revision of the tables for the identification of minerals. These expectations have been fully satisfied by the present publication. The advancement of mineralogical knowledge since the tables were first arranged in 1874 by Professor Brush has necessitated their expansion and rearrangement and has permitted of their being rounded out into more perfect form. The new tables are not only almost double the length of those published two years ago, but are more complete in the amount of data furnished under each mineral species. And, while the number of species of minerals in the new tables is much larger than formerly, the student is saved from confusion by the printing of the commoner kinds in stronger type than that used for the rarer ones. There are frequent evidences of the care taken by the author to prevent errors on the part of the student, and, with the detailed methods of procedure described in the introductory chapters, it would seem as though everything had been done to enable the student to fit himself to identify minerals by all means except those based on their optical behavior in polarized light.

A chapter has been introduced into this edition treating of the crystal forms of minerals in a manner especially adapted to beginners. The treatment is necessarily brief as regards the principles of crystallography. Particular stress has been put upon the illustration of the subject. The number of figures is not only large as compared with the extent of the text, but care has been taken to employ examples most likely to be met with by the student, and the drawing of the figures has been well done. The method of treatment is mainly descriptive, and, though conceptions of symmetry are introduced, and excellent figures representing the relative positions of different axes of symmetry are given in connection with various subdivisions of crystal forms, the application of symmetry to the forms or its relation to them is left to the student to work out. The arrangement of the groups or systems of crystal forms is that ordinarily followed, beginning with those having the most complex symmetry, holohedral isometric crystals, and finishing with crystals without symmetry, the triclinic. Subdivisions of each of these systems are called normal, when holohedral according to former usage, and when having less symmetry than the highest in each system, that is, when belonging to what have been called hemihedral or tetartohedral, they are named after some characteristic crystal form or after some mineral characterized by such a form.

In all parts of the book there are evidences of the great care taken by the author to render the subject intelligible to persons taking up the study of minerals for the first time, and there can be no question as to the success of the endeavor. J. P. I.

The Lower Cretaceous Gryphæas of the Texas Region. By ROBERT THOMAS HILL and THOMAS WAYLAND VAUGHAN. Bulletin No. 151, U. S. G. S. Washington, D. C.

The bulletin presents a careful study of that group of fossil oysters which has generally been referred to *Gryphæa pitcheri* of Morton. The authors vigorously criticise the opinions and descriptions formerly